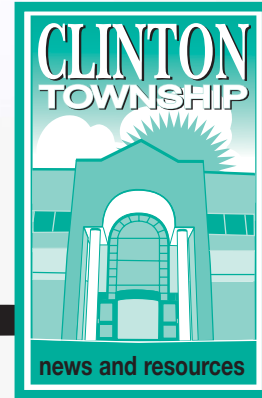


Clinton Currents



Volume 6, Issue 1

Clinton Township, Michigan

Spring/Summer 2006

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Clinton Township voters to decide on August 8 Police Department operational millage proposal

Frequently Asked Questions

The Clinton Township Police Department will ask for a 1.5 operational millage increase for 20 years on the August 8 primary ballot. Here are the answers to some questions you might have as a Clinton Township resident and voter.

What is the August 8th police ballot proposal about?

On Tuesday, August 8, 2006, Clinton Township voters will be asked to decide on a 1.5 operational millage increase for the Clinton Township Police Department. If approved, the 20-year tax will be subject to the voter approved Headlee Amendment tax rollback. All funds from the ballot proposal will go to the Police Department. It would be the first millage increase for police operations since 1984.

How has the township's Police Department grown over the years?

The township formed its Police Department in 1968 with a 3-mill levy. In 1984 voters approved a 2-mill increase for a total of 5 mills. The level of the Police Department's current 5-mill special assessment has remained the same since 1984. Since 1984 the township's Police Department has grown from 51 officers serving a community of 74,000 residents to 105 officers serving the township's 97,000 residents. Today the Police Department annually responds to more than 50,000 emergency calls while patrolling over 300 miles of township streets.

(continued on page 5)

RESIDENTIAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Clinton Township Civic Center
40700 Romeo Plank Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
MT CLEMENS MI
PERMIT NO. 319



Voters will be asked to consider a millage question in August during the Primary Election. The election will be critical to the future budget status of the Clinton Township Police Department.

Directory of Clinton Township Government Offices

Civic Center: (586) 286-8000 • 40700 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Township, Michigan 48038 • Regular hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Assessing	286-9468	Information Technology	286-9434
Budget and Finance	286-9353	Parks and Recreation	286-9336
Building	286-9323	Planning and Community Development	286-9325
Cable TV and Communications	286-9316	Public Works (DPW)	286-9465
Clerk's Office	286-9422	Senior Center	286-9333
Elections Division	286-9420	Senior Center Bus Service	286-9476
Emergency Management	723-8069	Supervisor's Office	286-8000, Ext. 8093
Employees Civil Service	286-9342	Trustees/Administrative Aide	286-9366
Engineering	286-9387	Treasurer's Office	286-9313
Heritage Estates	263-5919	Water and Sewer	286-9300
Police	493-7800	After Hours Water Emergency	296-0687
Fire-Rescue-EMS	263-8437	41B District Court	286-8010

IN ANY EMERGENCY911

Housing Commission	791-7000
Human Resources	286-9341

Web site/E-mail addresses:
www.clintontownship-mi.gov

Township radio station for weather
and emergencies: 1610 AM

Township Calendar

Board Meetings

6:30 p.m. Civic Center

May 8, 22 • June 5, 19

July 3, 17, 31 • August 14, 28

Agenda items are due at the Clerk's Office
10 days prior to the board meeting.

Offices Closed

The township offices are closed
on the following holidays:

Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day

Rubbish Pickup

There will be no trash collection on
**Memorial Day, Independence Day and
Labor Day.** Rubbish collection will remain
one day behind for the remainder of the
week, with Friday's pickup on Saturday.

Summer 2006 Taxes

Due July 1, 2006, and payable without
interest through September 14, 2006.

CTTV Guide

Clinton Township's government access channel, CTTV, provides gavel to
gavel coverage of board meetings, following the schedule below.

Board Meetings on CTTV

Every other Monday – Live at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday following the meeting – 2:00 p.m. retelecast

Tuesday of the following week – 8:00 p.m. retelecast

Cable channels:

5 - Comcast subscribers

10 - Wide Open West subscribers

Meetings are closed captioned for the hearing impaired. In addition,
CTTV televises a variety of new weekly programming starting every
Friday. Check out the on-air program guide, which is also published for
pick-up at the civic center lobby.

Volume 6, Issue 1 • Spring/Summer 2006

News and resources for the residents of Clinton Township

Published biannually by the Charter Township of Clinton,
40700 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Twp., Mich. 48038.

**Cable TV and
Communications Department:**

Director

Linda A. Badamo

Clinton Currents Editor

Graphic Artist
Paw Graphics

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Supervisor's Message

It is my privilege to extend to all of our residents and businesses a warm greeting.

I hope that this edition of *Clinton Currents* finds you and your loved ones in good health and ready to enjoy what should be a beautiful spring in Michigan. This publication contains many useful articles detailing what is happening in our community.

Recently, the Macomb County Road Commission confirmed to me that the first phase of widening of Cass Avenue is on track to begin this October. Also scheduled to be completed is the demolition of the bridge on Romeo Plank next to Partridge Creek and the construction of a new five-lane bridge. The bridge will not be removed until the first half of the new bridge is complete, so that traffic will continue with one lane in each direction at all times during the construction period.

There is some very important information outlined in this publication to help you understand the ballot issue that is being presented to the voters of Clinton Township this summer. I urge you to become informed prior to your vote, and if the information contained here does not answer all of your questions, I urge you to contact me, another board member, any member of the Police Department, or a member of the citizens group that is preparing information on this important issue.

Our township continues to see very positive development and, even more importantly, re-development. Our department heads continue to monitor their respective areas so as to assure we have

the proper environment for this to continue.

The revenue sharing cuts from the state of Michigan continue. The governor has announced that there will be no further reductions to local communities this year, but not one dollar that has been reduced has been replaced, nor does it appear that the state ever intends to restore revenue sharing to the level we were promised when Proposal A was voted into law in the early 1990's. Your township board, and the employees of the township, strive to maintain a community that you can be proud of, and one that will continue to attract first-class businesses and families who want to share what we have to offer.

I anticipate a continuation of the growth and progress we have all come to expect in Michigan's most-populated township. Thank you for your consistent support in making this not only the largest, but one of the finest communities in the state. I am proud and honored to be the supervisor in such a caring environment.

Best wishes for an enjoyable spring.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Cannon

Robert J. Cannon
Clinton Township Supervisor

Clinton Township Board:



Dennis C. Tomlinson
Clerk



Robert J. Cannon
Supervisor



William J. Sowerby
Treasurer



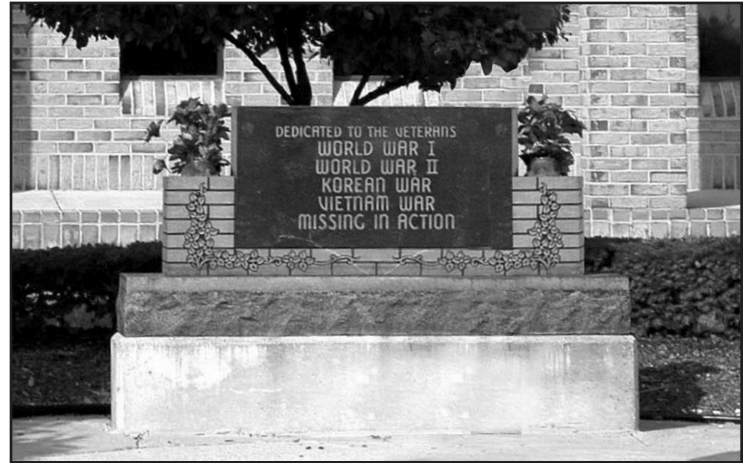
George Fitzgerald • Ernest O. Hornung • Dean Reynolds • Jenifer "Joie" West

Trustees

The elected members of the Clinton Township Board represent the residents of Clinton Township. The board meets every other Monday in the chambers at 40700 Romeo Plank Road. Phone (586) 286-8000 to reach your township board members.

Brick Paver Program to benefit township's War Memorial

Plans are underway to honor our veterans by immortalizing their names through the township's Brick Paver Program. For a tax deductible donation, one can have a personalized message etched into a brick paver that will be installed at the township's War Memorial, located on the grounds of the Civic Center. These bricks will honor all war veterans while making them a part of the history of the township. Bricks come in two sizes. The smaller brick, 4" x 8", is being sold at a cost of \$40. This brick can contain up to three lines of print. Each line has a maximum of 14 characters including spaces. The larger 8" x 8" brick can contain up to five lines of print and sells for \$80. If interested, contact the Trustees Office at 286-9366. Look for a dedication of the bricks at our War Memorial sometime this summer.



The pavement of the township War Memorial at the Civic Center is being replaced with engraved commemorative brick pavers to remember loved ones in the armed services.

Earth-friendly Landscaping

Did you know you can protect your kids, pets, and the environment from the harmful effects of herbicides and pesticides by choosing earth-friendly landscaping? The chemicals in herbicides and pesticides pollute our waterways when washed from our lawns and garden into storm drains that lead directly to our lakes and rivers.

So what can you do to help? Follow these tips for simple ways you can care for your lawn and garden and help keep our water clean.



Go native. Select plants native to Michigan.

Water wisely. Lawns need about one inch of water per week.

Use mulch. Place a thick layer of mulch (e.g. four inches) around trees and plants.

Mow high. Tall grass promotes root growth and shades out weeds.

Rake it or leave it. Avoid raking leaves into storm drains.

For additional easy steps on protecting our lakes and rivers, visit www.semcog.org or contact township Engineer Mary Bednar. Remember, our water is our future—and it's ours to protect.

Appointment Announcement



Matt Makowski

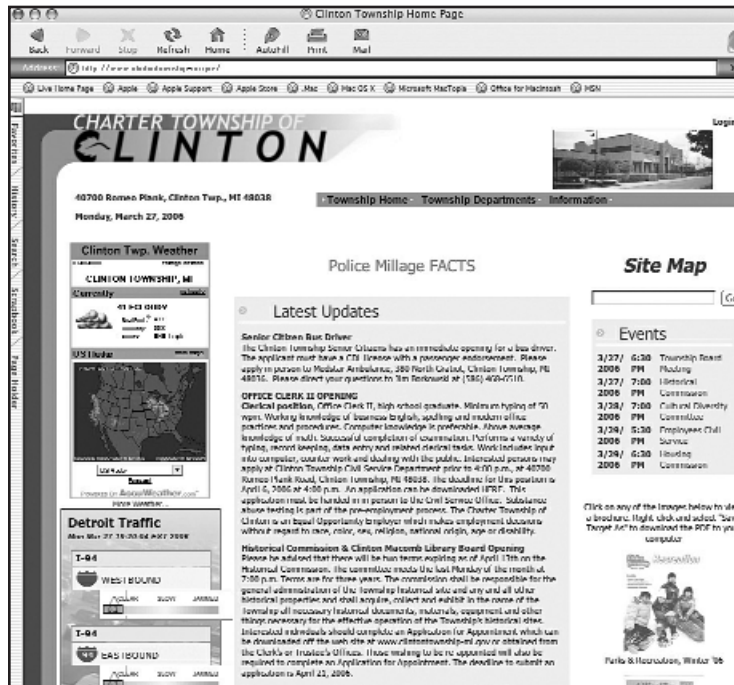
We are pleased to announce the new appointment of Matthew Makowski as administrative director for the Clinton Township Senior Center. Mr. Makowski has served as the assistant director under now-retired director Kathleen Hickey for the past eight years. He looks forward to continuing to provide award-winning programs and services to the seniors of our community. If you have any questions on programs and services offered by the CTSC, please feel free to call us at (586) 286-9333.

Clinton Township/Yasu City Cultural Exchange Program

This summer, Clinton Township will again be hosting a delegation of visitors from our sister city in Japan and host families will be needed. A group of approximately 20 guests will be visiting the township July 6 to July 15. Host families act as cultural ambassadors for the township, introducing their guest to the area, providing food and lodging as well. It is a great way to learn about a foreign culture. We will again be holding the Japanese Festival tentatively scheduled this year for Tuesday, July 11, 2006 at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library. Look for more details to come. For more information on the Sister City Program or if you are interested in hosting, contact Mary Ann Hosey at (586) 286-9366.

Clinton Township's re-designed web site

We would like to announce the new Clinton Township web site, www.clintontownship-mi.gov.



The new web site has been set up for better function and navigation

This new site is a complete redesign, both in appearance and in functionality. Online applications, registrations, and other live services can now be added as they become available. The most important feature is that more direct control by individual departments allows active updating, providing more up-to-date information to visitors. We encourage everyone to visit the new site and get familiar with its features.

Are you registered to vote? July 10 is the deadline to vote in the August Primary Election

August 8 is the state Primary Election. The last date to register for the primary is July 10, 2006. Once the township Clerk's Office receives the printed absentee ballots from the county (expected on June 24), they have to be proofed. The first mailing, which usually is quite large, will then be started. Residents are reminded that if they are not sure whether they are registered to vote or where they vote, the Voter Information Center at the web site www.clintontownship-mi.gov will let them know if they are registered, give upcoming election dates and a map to their precincts.

Clinton Township Police Department Operational Millage August 8, 2006 Ballot Proposal

(continued from page 1)

Why does the Clinton Township Board now believe we need a millage increase for the Police Department?

Funding for the Police Department from the 5-mill special assessment will fall short of paying for police services by more than \$2.8 million this year. This shortfall exists despite the cutbacks in police personnel and the department's budget discussed below. In the past, revenue sharing funds from the state of Michigan would have helped close this shortfall without the township having to turn to its savings account in the general fund.

During the past three years Clinton Township has lost more than \$7 million in state revenue sharing funds, forcing the township to dramatically increase the size of its annual subsidy from the general fund to pay for police operations.

What has the township done up to now to reduce costs before having to ask for a millage increase for the police?

To help offset cuts in revenue sharing funds from the state, the township has reduced expenditures and the number of employees township-wide. For example, the township has already eliminated through attrition 36 positions in a variety of township departments. Overall township expenditures excluding the cost for employees is down by more than 25 percent or \$1.1 million. The Police Department alone is down by seven police officers and four civilian support personnel. At the same time, the Police Department has made reductions that resulted in more than \$1.25 million in cost savings annually.

Where will the funds raised from the Police Department Operational Millage go should the ballot issue be approved?

All funds raised by the proposed 1.5-mill increase will go toward the operation of the Clinton Township Police Department. It is estimated that this proposal would result in the authorization to collect \$4.5 million in the first year if approved.

Didn't I already vote for a police building bond issue a few years ago?

In 1998 township voters approved a \$14 million general obligation police building bond issue over 20 years to fund the construction of a new police station on Groesbeck north of Metropolitan Parkway. The 62,000 sq. ft. station dedicated in 2001 was the first new police facility ever for the township. Because the township saved \$2 million on the construction of the police building, the township was able to bond for \$12 million and reduce the projected millage rate over the 20 years accordingly. The last installment on the bond issue comes due in December 2017. Residents will receive a property tax decrease after that. Funding from the bond issue continues to solely go toward paying for the station's construction.

How do I learn more about the Police Department's Operational Millage Ballot Proposal?

To find out more about the ballot proposal contact Citizens to Maintain Police Services by calling (586) 489-5615 or go to their website: www.keeperclintonsafe.com.

Taxable Value of Home	Total Annual Tax Millage Increase
\$ 50,000	\$ 75.00 / year
\$ 75,000	\$ 112.50 / year
\$ 100,000	\$ 150.00 / year
\$ 125,000	\$ 187.50 / year
\$ 150,000	\$ 225.00 / year
\$ 175,000	\$ 262.50 / year
\$ 200,000	\$ 300.00 / year
\$ 225,000	\$ 337.50 / year
\$ 250,000	\$ 375.00 / year



William J. Sowerby
Treasurer

Q. What do summer and winter taxes pay for?

A. Your **summer tax bill** is predominantly your annual school taxes. You pay millages levied by your local school district (Clinton Township has five), Macomb Community College, the Macomb Intermediate School District and the state's education tax levy. The fiscal year for these taxes is July 1-June 30. There are two exceptions: the additional Mount Clemens Library levy for those in the Mount Clemens school district, and the county operating tax (formerly paid in winter). In 2004, the state legislature voted to move

this tax from the winter to the summer bill. The three year transition process began in 2005. For the 2006 tax year, 2/3 of the county operating tax will be levied in summer and the remaining 1/3 will be levied in winter.

Your **winter tax bill** covers the millages for the township's operating costs, police and fire support, the Clinton-Macomb Public Library (excluding Mount Clemens school district residents), county drain debt, Huron-Clinton Metro Parks, SMART bus, and just for 2006, 1/3 of the county operating tax. The fiscal year for these taxes is December 1 – November 30. (Note: Clintondale Community Schools will continue to levy 1/2 of their mills in summer and 1/2 in winter.)

Q. What are the tax rates for real property in Clinton Township?

A. The tax rate (millage) is the number of dollars a property owner must pay for each \$1,000 of taxable value. In addition, school tax rates are based upon whether a property is considered to be the owner's "Principal Residence" (PR) on "Non-Principal residence" (NPR). Principal Residences are "exempt" from paying school operating mills. Millage rates for the 2006 tax year are not confirmed until one month prior to each levy in July and December.

Q. How can I determine what my property tax will be for the year?

A. You simply multiply your total local millage rate by your taxable value. A mill equals one one-thousandth of a dollar (\$1 of tax for each \$1,000 of taxable value). For example, if your

millage rate is 19.4142 mills and your taxable value is \$84,500, the formula would be 19.4142×84.5 for a property tax of \$1640.50. You can estimate 2006 taxes by using last year's rates and applying them to the 2006 taxable value provided by the assessor.

Phone for more information (586) 286-9313.

2005 Summer Collection Millage Rates

Chippewa Valley school district residents
PR 19.4142 NPR 37.4142

L'Anse Creuse school district residents
PR 18.7642 NPR 36.7642

Clintondale school district residents
PR 18.0892 NPR 26.4714 (1/2 School tax)

Fraser school district residents
PR 15.0142 NPR 24.0115 (1/2 School tax)

Mount Clemens school district residents
PR 23.8630 NPR 41.8630 (includes MC library)

Please read detailed explanation for this chart in the left hand column of this article.

Of these rates,
0
was for
Clinton Township
government.

2005 Winter Collection Millage Rates

Chippewa Valley school district residents
15.5622

L'Anse Creuse school district residents
15.5622

Clintondale school district residents
PR 21.8872 NPR 30.2693 (1/2 School tax)

Fraser school district residents
PR 18.8122 NPR 27.8095 (1/2 School tax)

Mount Clemens school district residents
14.6606 (excludes Clinton-Macomb library)

PR= Principal Residence • NPR= Non-Principal Residence

Please read detailed explanation for this chart in the left hand column of this article.

Of these rates,
11.05 mills
were for
Clinton Township
government
in 2005.

Township Technology Plan is on-course



Clinton Township's Technology Migration Plan—a five-year road map adopted by the township Board and meant to bring the benefits of up-to-date computer technology to the township and its residents—reached its fourth anniversary just a couple of months ago. In those four years, a fully modern network has been installed in the Civic Center, connecting the township's departments, lowering costs and increasing efficiency. Older equipment has either been replaced or, where possible, reassigned to other tasks so that nothing has been wasted. Business class Internet access gives every department the flexibility necessary in our interconnected world. The plan has provided a guideline that the Information Technology Department has used to bring 21st century capabilities to Clinton Township.

In this time of budgetary crisis, the township is deeply concerned about expenditures. Even the Technology Plan, adopted with a \$4.8 million price tag, was analyzed carefully by the I.T. Department for any way to meet its goals and provide cost reductions. As a result of such scrutiny, the leveraging of federal grant money, and the use of available options, the progress over the last four years has been accomplished for \$1 million less than budgeted. This kind of care will continue to be exercised over the last year of the plan, as well as into the future.